

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Hunter Education Newsletter



Coordinator's Comments

New WGFD Director Scott Talbott

Governor Matt Mead appointed Scott Talbott as the director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in February.

"Scott has valuable experience as he has done most everything at the Game and Fish Department," Mead said. "He is dedicated to our wildlife and is well equipped to work with those who represent diverse interests. Scott will help ensure we will always have world class wildlife as well as vibrant energy, agriculture and tourism industries."

Talbott, 48, is a 26-year veteran of the Game and Fish Department, starting as a laborer at the Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area in April 1985. He also worked as an elk feeder and technician at the Sheridan Bird Farm, before starting his law enforcement career as a seasonal game warden in Green River. He also was stationed at Glendo before beginning his permanent service as the Casper damage control warden in June 1988. An impressive history of promotions ensued: Newcastle game warden October 1989, Green River Region wildlife supervisor April 1995, Casper Region wildlife supervisor May 1997, and assistant chief game warden in January 2004.

"Wildlife is important to our quality of life and a treasured cultural resource for the residents of Wyoming," said Talbott, who was raised on a Laramie area ranch. "It is our duty to ensure wildlife, wildlife habitat and open spaces are available for the enjoyment of this generation and those to come."

Talbott earned farm and ranch management degrees from both Sheridan College and the University of Wyoming. In 1990, he was honored as the "Officer of the Year" from the Wyoming Game Warden's Association and as Shikar-Safari International's "Wildlife Officer of the Year" in 1991. In 2008, he received the Game and Fish "Director's Award." He has two sons: Payden and Luke.



Talbott also said that communicating with all affected interests will be a strong focus in his administration. "I am fully committed to interacting with all of the citizens of Wyoming to address the many challenges facing our wildlife resources," he said.

As we continue our important HE work and adjust to the changes being made within the WGFD and the Wyoming HE program, we need to celebrate Governor Mead's appointment of a fellow HE instructor as WGFD Director. Along with being a certified HE instructor, Scott has been a mentor to many new hunters and is an avid hunter himself. Director Talbott has a true understanding of the daily challenges of teaching HE and what it takes to provide a firm foundation for new hunters.

"Conserving Wildlife — Serving People"

A Sense of Place

When it comes to a sense of place and the unique opportunities generated by Wyoming's diverse wildlife, antelope are special. The pronghorn, often depicted as a symbol for Wyoming and western hunts, even though the state mammal is the bison, offers a wonderful hunt. The HE cadre understands the special nature of Wyoming pronghorn hunts and our sense of place.

Pronghorn hunts are enjoyed by new and older hunters where many of the rigors can be reduced and success is often high. If we each introduced one new hunter to a pronghorn hunt each year the long term impacts would be immeasurable.

Below are a couple of examples where new hunters experienced and enjoyed a quality Wyoming pronghorn hunt. There are many success stories and I enjoy hearing about these hunts and work to celebrate them.



Regional & Statewide HE

At the 2010 New Instructor Academy, I was asked to explain the role of Wyoming HE instructors as part of the WGFD. I explained how cadre members have a responsibility to teach HE as a WGFD message and must advocate for the WGFD mission of "Conserving Wildlife – Serving People." As a WGFD team member, HE instructors must keep the mission in mind and strive to embrace the Department's core values of *Customer Service-Focus, Trust, Respect, Accountability and Credibility*. By continuing to keep these principles in the forefront, HE program volunteer instructors will continue to be counted as essential WGFD HE team members.

2011 Legislative Watch - Bills with HE implications bills

With the 2011 legislative session winding down, a report with details will be forthcoming and included in the next newsletter.

- SF 71 Hunter Education in the Schools
- SF 47 Concealed Carry
- SJ 01 Hunting as a Wyoming Constitutional Right

**** HE and Expo** lost a strong advocate this winter when Bob Korzdorfer of the Casper Skeet, Trap & Sporting Clays Club passed away. This goodbye letter was one way to say thanks to Bob for all he has given to youth, hunting and shooting sports.

Bob:

It is my pleasure to be writing this letter, for what I have to say, I truly believe, comes from the hearts and minds of all the people that have come to know you throughout the years at the club.

When we had a problem, needed some help, or just needed to bounce some ideas off someone, you were always there and your input and assistance was invaluable to the club, the shooters and to the sport we shared. Your intuition and ability to fix almost anything was amazing and although we probably took it for granted at times, we learned to pay attention to what you said and did.

What I am trying to say, is that you helped the club, the shooters and especially me in so many ways that I cannot easily put it to words, the best that I can do is to say, from deep in my heart, THANK YOU for all that you have done in the short time I have known you. You have contributed so much to the club, the sport and to the future of hunting, shooting and the outdoors of Wyoming.

A few weeks back the Hunter Education Program of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department sent out a letter stating their need for some youth 410 shotguns to use in their programs and the programs of the Pheasants Forever chapters in Wyoming.

It is my pleasure to, in recognition of your contributions to the club and knowing that you supported the Pheasants Forever cause, inform you that the members of the Casper Skeet, Trap and Sporting Clays Club have voted to purchase a 410 shotgun, and to donate it in your behalf to the organizations to help them continue to promote our sport and our love for the outdoors to the future generations. The shotgun will be engraved to commemorate all your efforts and contributions.

In closing, I wish circumstances were different, but it is our hope and prayers that we could all have such a positive impact on the club, the shooting sports and the future generations of outdoors men and women that you have had, you will leave some awful big shoes to fill my friend.

Our Thoughts and Prayers go to you.

Robert Meyer - President
Casper Skeet, Trap & Sporting Clays
700 JC Way Casper, WY 82604

HE Recruitment and Retention



HE program benefits from The Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming Partnerships

The Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming has partnered with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) Hunter Education (HE) program to acquire two sets of training (non-functional) firearms to be used in hunter education classes to teach and assess firearms handling proficiency.

The WGFD Hunter Education program has recently acquired two sets of training firearms to be used in HE classes allowing for firearms handling to be undertaken in a wide variety of teaching venues. The acquisition of these important training aids came via the foresightedness of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming President and CEO Craig R. Showalter. Showalter, an avid hunter, is very involved with the recruitment and retention of hunters and has built several partnerships, including one with Remington Outdoor Foundation.

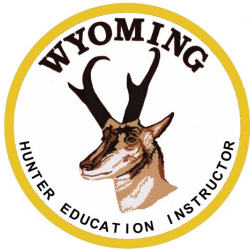


These firearm training sets are produced by the Remington Outdoor Foundation in conjunction with the International Hunter Education Association (IHEA) and make it possible for HE instructors to provide students with hands-on training that is safe at any venue. These five gun training sets enable each student to learn by doing with tools that demonstrate the five most common action types in actual firearm dimensions. Each firearm is true to form in every way except for the capacity to live fire and these firearms cannot be converted to become operable firearms. Every firearm in the set is full size and includes: the Remington 870 pump action shotgun, Remington 11-87 semi-auto shotgun, Marlin bolt action .22, Marlin lever action center-fire 30/30, and the H&R single barrel break action. Each firearm features a readily identifiable blaze orange synthetic stock and is powder coated to make the metal resistant to the rigors of years of practical hands-on training during firearms handling proficiency assessments.

These HE training tools are slated to be used in schools and community buildings where changing times have reduced the opportunities to bring in fully functional firearms for proficiency assessments. WGFD Hunter Education Coordinator, Jim Dawson, kicked off the use of these training tools at a recent HE class for The University of Wyoming Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society (TWS). The students worked through the different action types and matched the appropriate caliber or gauge to the dummy ammunition and went away with a quality firearms handling exercise. Additional venues for using these training tools in 2011 will include schools and community recreation centers as well as WGFD conservation camps and shooting clinics.

The Wildlife Heritage Foundation has also established an account specifically for the Hunter Education program, whereby donations can be made to the statewide HE program in memory of past hunters, young or old, generating the additional support needed to enrich the training efforts made in HE. One such example came in the form of a generous donation given to HE Coordinator Dawson by Marilyn Monroe of Story in memory of her husband Marvin. One of these two new training sets was purchased in Marvin's name and will be highlighted at an upcoming HE instructor workshop in the Sheridan region.

With safety being paramount in all WGFD HE endeavors the addition of these important training tools has been much appreciated and anticipation is great for the usage of these firearm sets as a way to open new venues for HE classes. These training sets came to the Wyoming HE program only by way of the generosity of those interested in perpetuating Wyoming's hunting traditions and by the vision of Craig Showalter of the Wildlife Heritage Foundation of Wyoming. Additional training sets would be of great benefit to the statewide HE program with future plans to house one set of these training firearms in each of the eight WGFD regional offices. Contact Craig at 777-4529 for more information on how to donate to HE.



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As Hunter Education Volunteer Instructors you are a voice for the Department's mission:

"Conserving Wildlife — Serving People"

The Department's message that we as HE instructors teach has been established by the Game and Fish Commission and includes six major topics:

1. *Hunter Responsibility and Ethics*
2. *Wildlife Conservation and Management*
3. *Firearms and Firearm Safety*
4. *Game & Fish Statutes and Regulations*
5. *Game Care & Wildlife Identification*
6. *Outdoor Safety*

HE Training to Engage Students



HE workshops are conducted to provide and share ideas and techniques for engaging students in HE classes. These workshops also provide great opportunities to emphasize best practices to new instructors by veteran instructors.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department receives federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 300, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Check the WGFD web page for HE class Listings, Forms & Workshop Updates
<http://gf.state.wy.us/services/education>

Tools of the Trade

Attending a **Staying Safe in Bear, Lion and Wolf Country** workshop is a great way for HE instructors to keep up on current issues in their community. Here is the 2011 workshop schedule.

Community	When	Location	Time
Dayton	March 2	Tongue River Valley Community Center Dayton, Wyoming	6-8 pm
Green River	March 31	WGFD Green River Regional Office	6-9 pm
Casper	April 7	Ski Lodge, Casper Mountain Trails Center, 9301 Casper Mountain Road	7-9 pm
Dubois	April 7	Dubois Headwaters Center	6-8 pm
Powell	April 11	Fagerberg Hall, Room 70, Northwest College	7-9 pm
Cody	April 12	Park County Library Grizzly Room	6-8 pm
Lander	April 14	Fremont County Library	6-8 pm
Sundance	April 19	Community Room of the Crook County Courthouse	7-9 pm
Pinedale	April 26	Pinedale Library	6:30-9:30 pm
Jackson	April 27	Teton Room Snow King Resort	6:30-9:30 pm
Esterbrook	April 30	Esterbrook Community Association Building	7-9 pm

Dates to Remember

- HE in-service regional workshops are being scheduled for:
Casper region - April 12th, WGFD Casper office 6 p.m.
Jackson region - May 20th, WGFD Jackson office 6 p.m.
Sheridan region - April 15th, Gillette Rec Center 6 p.m.
- Wyoming / South Dakota Youth Hunter Education Challenge YHEC, May 14, 2011 in Upton at the Upton Gun Club
- IHEA Annual Conference June 1-5, 2011 in North Carolina
- Wyoming - Becoming an Outdoors Woman June 17 - 19, 2011
- WGFD O.R.E.O. Educator's Camp June 13 - 16, 2011
- Wyoming 4H State Shoot July 8 - 10, 2011 in Douglas
- The New HE Instructor Academy July 15 - 17, 2011
- Youth Conservation Camp July 31 - August 5, 2011
- EXPO - 14th annual Casper September 8—10, 2011
- Ladies Shotgunning Clinic September 11, 2011 Casper